



# French Connections franconnexions

March 20, 2017  
UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT

Courtesy Library of Congress, Lewis Hine collection

Leopold Daigneau and Arsene Lussier, Chace Cotton Mill, Burlington, Vermont 1909

Dear Registrant to French Connections/franconnexions:

*Welcome to the Canadian borderlands/bienvenue en zone frontalière canadienne.*

The Champlain valley, once part of la Nouvelle France, has long been a fluid zone between countries and peoples. In the 19th century, the Richelieu-Champlain-Hudson corridor hummed with waterborne trade, especially in Canadian timber. French-Canadian emigrants flocked to the textile mills of nearby Winooski, putting this region in the vanguard of Québécois' mass migration to New England. French is still heard on the pedestrian mall of Church Street, but it is the French of Montreal tourists. Québec is the most important export market for Vermont. Vermont is Québec's most significant trading partner in New England. Microchips and energy are the leading products in this exchange.

This conference highlights the historical, cultural and economic contributions of French Canadians to Vermont and New England, examining the past, present and future of these cross-border migrations and relationships. In three panels, we examine this story:

**Past:** How and why were Vermont and New England populated by so many French Canadians in the 19th-early twentieth centuries? How were they received? When and why did this influx assimilate?

**Present:** How do cross-border connections with Québec, in tourism and in trade, continue to shape the culture and economy of New England?

**Future:** What does French-Canadian immigration teach us about current and future immigration trends?

We are delighted to welcome such a diverse group of participants from both sides of the border, including academics, business leaders, policy-makers, educators, citizens and students. We look forward to a productive exchange of ideas. Your participation is crucial. Panelists' presentations will be brief, leaving ample time for audience comments and questions. We welcome you to engage with the presenters by making sure your doubts are aired, your questions answered, and your perspective is heard.

Please seek us out with any questions. We look forward to meeting you in person.

Sincerely, conference co-organizers:



David Massell, Professor of History,  
Director of the Canadian Studies Program, University of Vermont



Richard Watts, Director of the Center for Research  
on Vermont, University of Vermont

# Conference Agenda

French Connections/franconnexions March 20th, 2017

8:00-9:00 AM: **Breakfast/Welcoming Remarks** **Livak Ballroom**  
William Falls, UVM Dean of Arts and Sciences  
Marie-Claude Francoeur, Quebec Delegate in Boston

9:00-10:15 AM: **The Past** **Livak Ballroom**

- How and why were Vermont and New England populated by so many French Canadians in the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries?
- How were they received?
- When and why did this influx assimilate?

*Chair: Susan Pinette, Professor of Modern Languages and Literature, University of Maine*  
**Father Marcel Rainville**, Saint Michael's College  
**Leslie Choquette**, Professor of History, Assumption College  
**Mark Richard**, Professor of History, SUNY Plattsburgh

10:15-10:35 AM: **Coffee Break** **Livak Fireplace Lounge & Gallery**

10:35-11:55 AM: **The Present** **Livak Ballroom**

- How do cross-border connections with Québec, in tourism and in trade, continue to shape the culture and economy of New England?

*Chair: Marie-Claude Francoeur, Québec Delegate in Boston*  
**Ernest Pomerleau**, President/CEO, Pomerleau Real Estate, Burlington  
**Adeline Simenon**, Attorney, Paul Frank & Collins, Burlington  
**Ted Brady**, Deputy Secretary, Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development  
**Pierre Chartrand**, dance historian, choreographer, founder of Danse Cadence

12:15-1:30 PM: **Luncheon** **Grand Ballroom**

Introduction: **Tom Sullivan**, UVM President  
Speaker: **T.J. Donovan**, Attorney General, State of Vermont  
Speaker: **Rita de Santis**, Minister for Access to Information and the Reform of Democratic Institutions

1:45-3:15 PM: **The Future** **Livak Ballroom**

- What does French-Canadian immigration teach us about current immigration trends?
- What can we learn from the past as we shape this future?

*Chair: David Massell, Professor of History, University of Vermont*  
**Mary Rice-Defosse**, Professor of French and Francophone Studies, Bates College  
**Carole Salmon**, Professor of French Studies and Culture, University of Massachusetts, Lowell  
**Chris Louras**, Mayor of Rutland, Vermont  
**Jack Jedwab**, President of the Association for Canadian Studies and the Canadian Institute for Identities and Migration

## Closing Remarks

**Phil Scott**, Governor of Vermont  
**Rita de Santis**, Minister for Access to Information and the Reform of Democratic Institutions

4:00-5:00 PM: **Flag Raising & Music** **Burlington City Hall**  
Sponsored by the Alliance Française and Pomerleau Real Estate.



# Speaker Bios

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## Ted Brady | *Deputy-Secretary* Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development



Governor Phil Scott appointed Ted Brady to be the Deputy Secretary of Vermont's Agency of Commerce and Community Development (ACCD) in January 2017. From 2013 to 2017, Brady served in the Obama Administration as the VT and NH State Director of USDA Rural Development. In that role, he led the investment of more than \$1 billion in federal grants, loans, and loan guarantees in rural housing, economic development, and community infrastructure focused on growing rural communities. Prior to that, Brady served as U.S. Senator Patrick Leahy's senior economic development, international trade, community development, housing, and transportation field representative. Today, Brady lives with his wife and two sons in Williston. He spends his free time skiing, fishing, and hunting musing about making Vermont a better place to live, work, and play.

## Pierre Chartrand | *Dance Historian, Choreographer* Founder of Danse Cadence



Born in Montreal, Pierre Chartrand is a dance historian-ethnologist, a choreographer, a master step dancer and an artful dance caller. Dancing for more than 45 years, he teaches and performs regularly in Québec, Canada, the United States, and Europe. After his Dance Master in La Sorbonne (Paris – France, 1991), he found the Centre Mnémo, a documentation center on traditional dance and music from Québec. He published folk music and dance books for Mnémo, wrote articles for magazines, spoke frequently at folk music programs and conferences, and taught at the dance program of UQÀM. He is the winner of several awards including the prize for the best choreography by the Independent Reviewers Of New England, 2005.

## Leslie Choquette | *Director of the French Institute* Assumption College



Leslie Choquette is a professor of Francophone cultures and director of the French Institute at Assumption College in Worcester, where she also teaches history. Her courses have included "France Since 1789;" and "The History of Canada." She received her undergraduate degree from Radcliffe College and her master's and doctorate from Harvard University. She is the author of *Frenchmen into Peasants: Modernity and Tradition in the Peopling of French Canada*, which won the Alf Andrew Heggoy prize in French colonial history. Choquette has also written many articles about the French presence in North America. In November 2012, she received Le Prix du Québec from the Québec Government for her contribution to the field of Québec Studies. She recently attended a conference in Paris at the Sorbonne, where she did research on the letters and autobiographical writings of French-speaking immigrants and travelers in the Americas.

## Rita de Santis | *Minister for Access to Information and the Reform of Democratic Institutions*



Born in the Abruzzo region of Italy, Rita de Santis migrated to Canada with her family at the age of four, settling in Montreal. She graduated from McGill University in Biochemistry in 1976; and in 1980, she obtained a Bachelor of Laws from McGill. Prior to entering provincial politics, she practiced law for over three decades, and became one of the first female partners at Phillips & Vineberg law firm in Montréal (today Davies Ward Phillips & Vineberg) in 1989. She was elected to the National Assembly of Québec in 2012 in the Bourassa-Sauvé riding, and re-elected in 2014. In January 2016, she was sworn in as Minister responsible for Access to Information and the Reform of Democratic Institutions in the cabinet of Premier Philippe Couillard.

# Speaker Bios

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## T.J. Donovan | *State Attorney General of Vermont*



T. J. Donovan is Vermont's State Attorney General, elected in 2016 with over 66 percent of the vote. He previously served for ten years as State's Attorney of Chittenden County. During his first month in office, Attorney General Donovan joined sixteen other states in an *amicus* brief in the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals opposing President Trump's executive order banning immigrants from certain Muslim countries. Donovan also joined Republican Governor Phil Scott in proposing legislation to require the governor's approval before state and local police could conduct federal immigration enforcement work. Donovan has worked to reduce recidivism on lesser crimes by trying to address the causes of criminality, prevention and collaborative solutions.

## Marie-Claude Francoeur | *Québec Delegate to New England*



Ms. Marie-Claude Francoeur was appointed the Québec Delegate to New England in May 2014. This is her second term in Boston. Ms. Francoeur formerly served as the Assistant Deputy Minister for Policies, Multilateral and Francophone Affairs and as Acting Chief of Protocol at the Ministère des Relations internationales et de la Francophonie du Québec. Ms. Francoeur was also Chief of Staff for the Québec Ministers of Transportation and Labour. Throughout her career, Ms. Francoeur has worked to shape and promote Québec's policies on climate change, labor, transportation, energy and francophonie, both at home and internationally. Ms. Francoeur holds masters' degrees in both public administration and international relations from the Maxwell School at Syracuse University, as well as a bachelor's degree in applied sciences from Laval University in Québec and a certificate in advanced management from the McGill Executive Institute.

## Jack Jebwab | *Executive Vice-President* The Canadian Institute for Identities and Migration



Jack Jedwab is currently President of the Association for Canadian Studies (ACS) and the Canadian Institute for Identities and Migration (CIMI). He is currently the Chair of the Canadian National Metropolis Conference, the country's largest conference on Immigration and Integration. He is the founding editor and publisher of the publication *Canadian Diversity*. He holds a PhD in Canadian History from Concordia University. Since 1983 he has lectured at McGill University, Concordia University and the Université du Québec à Montréal in the departments of sociology, political science and at the Institute for the Study of Canada. With his expertise and vast knowledge of Canadian history, demographics, identity and public opinion, he is one of the national medias' most quoted social researchers and one of the country's leading public intellectuals.

## Chris Louras | *Mayor* City of Rutland, Vermont



Mayor Christopher Louras began his career in public service after his graduation from the University of Vermont (B.A. 1982) through his ten years of active duty military service as a U.S. Army CH-47 Maintenance Manager/Test Pilot. He returned to Rutland in 1994 to raise his children and joined his brother and sister to run Sam Frank, Inc., a family-owned regional wholesale/distribution business. During this period in the private industry, he held several public sector positions including serving ten years as Rutland City Alderman and one term as a member of the Vermont House of Representatives. He was elected to his first term as Mayor in 2007 and has stood re-election to four subsequent terms. For the past three years he has focused on guiding Project Vision, a nationally recognized innovative opiate response strategy that has successfully driven down crime and improved community quality of life. He is a dedicated husband to his wife, Judy, and proud father of his four sons, Chris, Justin, Ian, and Augie.



# Speaker Bios

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## David Massell | *Professor of History* University of Vermont



David Massell teaches courses on Canadian and American history at UVM and directs the Canadian Studies Program. Interested in the resource development of the Canadian North, his research speaks to hydro policy in the province that produced Hydro-Québec, and to the integration of North American economies, illustrating the process by which American capital and industry drew the North into the economic orbit of the United States. He is the author of *Amassing Power: J.B. Duke and the Saguenay River, 1897-1927* (McGill-Queen's, 2000) and *Quebec Hydropolitics: The Peribonka Concessions of the Second World War* (McGill-Queen's 2011).

## Susan Pinette | *Director of the Franco-American Centre* University of Maine



Associate Professor of Modern Languages and Literatures and Director of Franco-American Programs at The University of Maine, Susan Pinette received her doctorate in French at the University of California, Irvine. Her research examines contemporary Franco-American literature, where she shows its significance to the broader arenas of North American Francophone communities and American studies. She has published on Lahontan, Diderot, and Kerouac and is currently working on a book-length manuscript on Franco-American fiction. In her work as Director, she has developed various curricula for Franco-American Studies, received state and federal funding grants, and served as liaison between the academic community, business leaders, governments, and the public.

## Ernest Pomerleau | *French Honorary Consul in Burlington* Pomerleau Real Estate



Ernie Pomerleau is president of Pomerleau Real Estate, a family-owned commercial Real Estate firm in business for 60 years, located in Burlington. The company has an impeccable reputation specializing in brokerage, development and property management. Ernie is the Honorary Consulate of France to Vermont, prior Chair to the Governor's Board on Climate Change, Director at Shelburne Farms, Trustee of St. Michael's College, Ambassador of International Council of Shopping Centers and Executive Committee of the Greater Burlington Industrial Corporation. He is also well-known in the philanthropic and non-profit arena giving his time and contributions to Cancer Patient Support Program, Leukemia/Lymphoma Society, Visiting Nurses Association/Hospice and many more. In Ernie's free time he enjoys competitively racing Etchell sailboats and teaching Tai Chi.

## Father Marcel Rainville | *Campus Minister* St. Michael's College



Rev. Marcel R. Rainville was born in St. Albans and raised on a dairy farm in Swanton, Vermont. He grew up going to St. Anne's Academy, and then to pursue a BA in Philosophy from Saint Michael's College in 1967, and then to The University of Toronto for his Masters. His past experience includes Pastoral work & community development in Caracas, Venezuela. Director of Communications, Society of St. Edmund, Fairholt, Burlington. Campus minister, Edmundite Campus Ministry, Saint Michael's College, 1993 – 1997. Director of Edmundite Campus Ministry, Saint Michael's College, 1997 – 2003. Campus minister, Edmundite Campus Ministry, Saint Michael's College, 2003 – 2008. Edmundite Formation Director, South Burlington, 2008 – 2013. Campus minister, Edmundite Campus Ministry, Saint Michael's College, 2013 to present.

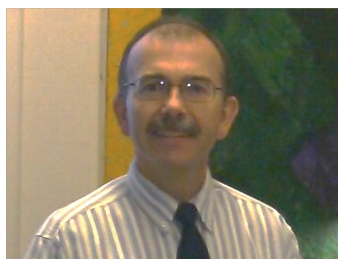
# Speaker Bios

**Mary Rice-DeFosse** | *Professor of French & Francophone Studies* Bates College



Mary Rice-DeFosse has worked to integrate the history, literature, and culture of Maine's Franco-Americans and other French-speakers into the curriculum at Bates College. She is co-author of *The Franco-Americans of Lewiston-Auburn* (The History Press, 2015). She also wrote and co-produced a documentary on the work of the Sisters of Charity of Saint-Hyacinthe in the local community, entitled *They Came, They Served/Elles sont venues, elles ont servi*, part of a permanent exhibit at Franco Center for Heritage and the Performing Arts in Lewiston. She serves on its board and on the board of the Franco-American Collection of the University of Southern Maine's Lewiston-Auburn College. She is past president of Women in French, an international professional organization dedicated to the study of women writers of French expression. Her research publications also include French literature of the nineteenth century.

**Mark P. Richard** | *Professor of History and Canadian Studies* SUNY Plattsburgh



Mark Paul Richard is Professor of History and Canadian Studies at the State University of New York at Plattsburgh. His scholarly publications examine the acculturation of French Canadians in U.S. society and nativism in the United States. He is the author of *Loyal but French: The Negotiation of Identity by French-Canadian Descendants in the United States* (2008) and of *Not a Catholic Nation: The Ku Klux Klan Confronts New England in the 1920s* (2015).

**Carole Salmon** | *World Languages and Cultures* University of Massachusetts, Lowell



Carole Salmon, Ph.D., is associate professor of French Studies and Chair of the Department of World Languages and Cultures at the University of Massachusetts Lowell. With training in both French and Francophone Literatures and Sociolinguistics, her current research focuses on the representations of linguistic and cultural identities of French and Francophone communities - ties in cinema and literature. Her past publications and fieldworks have focused on the Cajuns in Louisiana and on the Franco-American communities in New England. She recently co-edited a volume entitled *Racines et déracinements au grand écran: trajectoires migratoires dans le cinéma français du XXI<sup>ème</sup> siècle* (2016, Brill|Rodopi). A regular reviewer for the Linguistic section of *The French Review*, Salmon also presents her research to national and international conferences.

**Phil Scott** | *82nd Governor* The State of Vermont



Governor Phil Scott is a native Vermonter who grew up in Barre, and is a graduate of Spaulding High School and the University of Vermont. In 2000, he was elected to the Vermont Senate, where he represented Washington County for five terms. During his 10-year service in the Senate, he was Vice Chair of the Transportation Committee and Chair of the Institutions Committee. Phil was elected Vermont's 79th Lieutenant Governor in 2010, serving until January, 2017. Through the Everyday Jobs Initiative, Phil has worked in 35 different professions around the state – working alongside a host of professionals and business owners, from manufacturing floor technicians and beekeepers to emergency room workers and second grade teachers. Phil lives in Berlin with his wife Diana McTeague Scott and their two dogs, and daughters.

# Speaker Bios

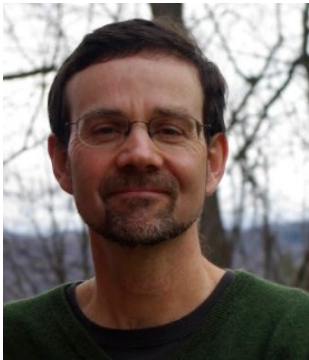
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## Adeline Simonon | *Director* Paul, Frank + Collins



Adeline Simonon is a French-Swiss-American attorney and Director at Paul Frank + Collins, a Burlington, VT based full-service law firm. She leads the firm's corporate immigration practice and "Canadian desk." Her practice focuses on assisting Canadian companies to expand their operations throughout the United States. She has represented hundreds of foreign entities with the launch of their U.S. offices and the transfer of key employees to the U.S. She also works with national and local employers seeking to recruit foreign professionals and talents. Adeline acted as Adjunct Professor of EU Trade Law and International Commercial Law for the University of Southern California Gould School of Law in Los Angeles, CA from 2004 through 2010. She practiced with Wolfson Immigration Law Group in Santa Monica, CA from 2009 through 2013 prior to moving to VT in 2013.

## Richard Watts | *Director*, Center for Research on Vermont



Richard Watts teaches media and policy studies at the University of Vermont, and is the Director of the Center for Research on Vermont. The Center's mission is to promote and make accessible research in the Vermont "laboratory" -- research that provides original knowledge to the world, and research that adds to the understanding of the state's social, economic, cultural and physical environment. Richard's own research focuses on the role of strategic communications in the development and implementation of public policy, with a particular focus on energy, transportation and public health. Richard is the author of the 2012 book, *Public Meltdown: the Story of the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Plant*.



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